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The Turkish government's reply to the ultimatum shows a spirit of almost ideal fairness and honorableness in comparison with Italy's base and brutal conduct, and gives just ground for believing that, under the new régime, the Turkish empire is, in spite of the deadly incubus left by the old order, making real progress in civilization. Here it is:

"The Royal Embassy is aware of the manifold difficulties of circumstance which have not allowed Tripoli and Cyrenaica to take advantage of the benefits of progress. An impartial consideration of affairs is enough to show that the Ottoman Constitutional Government cannot be held liable for a situation which is the work of the old *régime*. That being laid down, the Sublime Porte, in recapitulating the course of the three last years, searches in vain for circumstances in which it has shown itself hostile to Italian enterprises concerning Tripoli and Cyrenaica. Quite the contrary, it has always appeared to it normal and rational that Italy should co-operate with her capital and industrial activity in the economic uplifting of this part of the empire.

"Reduced to these essential terms, the present disagreement resides in the absence of guarantees calculated to reassure the Italian Government as to the economic expansion of its interests in Tripoli and Cyrenaica. In not proceeding to so grave an act as a military occupation, the Royal Government will be met by the Sublime Porte with the firm desire to smooth away this disagreement.

"Thus, impartially, the Imperial Government may acquaint it with the nature of these guarantees to which it will willingly subscribe so long as they do not affect its territorial integrity.

"It undertakes to this end not to modify in any way whatsoever during the *pourparlers* the present situation in Tripoli and Cyrenaica in military respects, and it would like to hope that the Royal Government, yielding to the sincere dispositions of the Sublime Porte, will acquiesce in this proposal."

The answer to this reasonable request was the *belohing* of Italian warships and the seizing of the coast towns of Tripoli.

But Italy is not wholly to blame for the situation which she has brought on. Back of it lies the imperial, conscienceless territorial extension policy which all the great powers of Europe have almost habitually followed. She was tempted and urged on by the Fez expedition of France, the Agadir conduct of Germany, the seizure of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, to go no further into the dismal history of aggression upon weaker powers of which the powerful nations have practically all been guilty. Here is to be found the secret of the indifference of Europe to what Italy has been doing. Three or four of the powers might easily, acting under the authority of the Hague conventions, have checked the hand of Italy before the stiletto fell. But the nerve of their sense of justice and of responsibility for international order and peace had been paralyzed by the hideous presence of the blood spots on their own hands. This it is which makes the whole situation so heartrending and discouraging, and not the mere fact that an individual robber has sallied forth from

the den and fallen upon a helpless, or seemingly helpless, victim.

From present indications it looks as if Italy will have to pay dearly for the crime which she has committed. Hundreds of men are being shot to death in the fierce encounters between her troops and the Turks and Arabs, beyond the towns of the coast, and nobody can guess when the horrible sacrifice of lives and the swift consumption of wealth will end. Hot, senseless passion is in the saddle, and the results will be what they have always been in such cases.

The one encouraging feature of the situation is the revelation of the widespread and ever-deepening hatred of international injustice and war which Italy's conduct has occasioned in all countries. The enlightened public sentiment of the world is moving fast toward the day when it will be impossible for any nation to defy it, to ignore the Hague common laws, and plunge the whole body of civilized men into the abyss of shame and disgrace, as Italy has just done.

The Centenary of John Bright.

The 16th of this month will be the centenary of the birth of one of the ablest, purest, and noblest men that ever wrought in the fields of peace, John Bright. We are glad to be able to publish in this issue an appreciative article on John Bright and his services to the cause of peace, from the pen of one who has given much time and labor to the study and interpretation of his character and work and who hopes, in time, to give us a larger treatise on Mr. Bright's life.

We have not space in this number of our journal to enter into any lengthy editorial presentation of Bright's remarkable character and work; nor indeed is this necessary. We wish only to say, in extension of what Mr. Van Eps writes, that the most appropriate method of commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the illustrious peace statesman's birth would not be the holding of public meetings and the pronouncing of lengthy eulogies upon him, worthy as he was of the very best that could be done in this line. A far more fitting observance of the anniversary would be the rereading by all—especially by all statesmen—who are interested in the peace cause, of Mr. Bright's various speeches on the subject, and a new and more earnest endeavor to secure the incorporation of his policies in the international politics of our day. Time has proved Mr. Bright to have been right in the positions which he took on the unfortunate courses which his country followed in the foreign politics of his day, the Crimean war, etc. Indeed, his contentions were so deeply rooted in essential justice and political morality that they are as applicable to the international questions of our day as they were during his lifetime. The world has not yet reached, nor does it seem likely soon to reach, the level of Mr. Bright's lofty political ideals. For this reason our present-day publicists and statesmen will find the perusal of his speeches and the study of the spirit in which he made them of very great aid in their efforts further to promote justice and brotherhood in the relations of nations.

John Bright never participated much, except on a few unusual occasions, in the organized peace movement, technically so called. His work was done in the regular course of his duties as a member of the House of Commons. It was a necessary expression of his religious and moral character and of the principles by which he guided his whole life, public as well as private. He could not have been anything else but a peacemaker and have remained true to himself. That is the kind of statesmen needed in the parliamentary halls of the world today. There are some such; we wish there were more.

Special Edition of the Advocate of Peace.

We are preparing to issue a special number of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* for December, devoted to the subject of the arbitration treaties now before the Senate and their ratification. We hope to distribute at least fifty thousand copies of this special number. We shall, therefore, be greatly obliged to our members and friends if, immediately on receiving this paper, they will send us the names of a few influential persons in their States and communities to whom copies may be sent. Let the names be typewritten, if possible, and in alphabetical order by cities and towns within the State.

Notice of a Special Meeting of the American Peace Society.

Notice is hereby given of a special meeting of the American Peace Society to be held at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., on Friday, December 8, 1911, at ten o'clock A. M.

The meeting is called to consider certain suggested changes in the organization and constitution of the Society, already discussed at the Annual Meeting in May, looking to a completer federation of all the peace organizations of the country and the increase of their strength and efficiency. The suggested changes in the constitution are as follows:

1. The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: Twelve members of the board shall be chosen by the society at its Annual Meeting. In addition to these, each branch or section of the society having 500 members or fraction thereof over 100 members shall be entitled to choose one member of the board and an additional member for each additional 500 members or fraction thereof over 100.

2. Each branch or section of the society shall have the right to send one official delegate to the annual and other meetings of the society, and as many additional delegates as it has times 100 members. But all members of the society present at the annual and other meetings who are not official delegates shall have the right to cast their individual votes.

3. The Executive Committee to be increased from seven to nine members.

4. The creation of a new official to be called the Executive Secretary, who shall have charge, under the Executive Committee, of the outlying executive work of the society, and thus relieve the General Secretary of a portion of the heavy labor which the growth of the society has imposed.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD,
Secretary.

Editorial Notes.

Germany's Proposal.

If it is true, as cabled from Berlin, that the German government has for some time been carrying on negotiations with the British Cabinet looking to an arrangement to check the growth of navies, it is easily the most encouraging international news that has been published for a long time. If the step has not yet been taken, one of three or four governments must take it before long. It is felt in all the important capitals of the world that the present rivalry cannot go on much longer. It will be to Germany's everlasting honor if she has shown the courage to open the negotiations for the arrest of the naval-increase folly. When Great Britain and Germany have once begun the serious consideration of the problem they will find that, difficult as it is, the solution will not be anything like as troublesome as they have supposed. The other maritime powers will welcome the step with great satisfaction, and will at once co-operate, and the burdened peoples, who have been seeing farther and faster in this matter than their governments, will be swift to make known their loyal and patriotic approval.

Japan and the United States.

At the dinner of welcome given to Hamilton Holt and Lindsey Russell at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, September 25, Prince Tokugara, President of the Japanese House of Peers, who presided, uttered the following weighty words:

"GENTLEMEN: It is my pleasant duty tonight to propose the health of our guests from America, whom we all honor, love, and esteem. No Japanese can visit their great country without being overwhelmed with hospitality and all forms of attention and courtesy, and we all feel happy whenever we are given the opportunity to reciprocate, though the resources for entertainment are lamentably inadequate in this country. But to the gentlemen whom we are so proud to have as our guests tonight we owe gratitude not only for their hospitality to us while in their country, but for their noble efforts in the cause of peace and amity between the two great nations. Nobody who really knows the American people can ever doubt that their sentiments are thoroughly friendly to us. As for ourselves, we all know that we are in no less degree friendly to the Americans. As a